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Attachment 1

USIA REPORT ON T-V ACTIVITIES

In connection with our discussions of hemispheric TV (see para. 5.k. of Minutes of August 2, 1956 meeting of our Group), there has just come across my desk the International Broadcasting Service's Report (prepared June '56 by the Office of the TV Program Manager, USIA) on the status of television activities of USIA. This covers very fully the Latin American countries but at only one point (page 17 of IS-58-56 "Overseas TV Developments Quarterly Report" where Colombia is stated to have a transmitter which can eventually hook up with the United States) is there any reference to the possibility of hemispheric TV broadcasting from and to the U. S. The reference to Uruguay (page 19 of the Quarterly Report) does not refer to the possibilities of a hemispheric network contained in the 1955 despatch from Embassy Montevideo which stated that the prospect of hemispheric control from the U. S. was the controlling factor in Uruguay's purchase of GE rather than Argentine TV equipment.

Page 25 of the Quarterly Report indicates that 13 Latin American countries use as TV standards 525 lines - 6 Mc/s bandwidth - 30 frames, whereas Argentina and Venezuela use 625 lines - 6 Mc/s bandwidth - 25 frames.

Pages 37-41, 45 and 47 of the Quarterly Report show the number of TV stations and TV sets by country, indicating:

a. that in March 1956 there were 35 TV stations in 8 Latin American countries. In June 1956, there were 43 in use in the same 8 countries. For 1956-58, 67 are planned in 20 countries.

b. that in March 1956 there were in use 642,500 receivers in 8 countries; and in June of 1956 there were 782,000 in use in 9 countries (Uruguay being added).

c. that the countries in which there were no stations in June 1956 were Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

It would seem from the foregoing that Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru would be fruitful places for USIA and State to give assistance to private U. S. TV firms toward effecting installations which will be compatible with eventual receipt and transmission from and to the U. S. of hemispheric TV broadcasts. The utility of two-way hemisphere TV to influence the military, the intellectuals, students, and labor (the four key present or future groups in LA) would seem considerable, extending as it would to illiterates and not being subject to duplication from overseas by the Soviet Bloc.

OCB-RPCrenshaw,Jr.:8/10/56

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